

**Abstract 140**

**TITLE:** Using GIS to Improve Methods of Targeting HIV Resources to Communities in Need

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**ISSUE:** To make comprehensible huge amounts of information for a diverse constituency by relating complex and disparate data into a meaningful whole: To respond to community demands for information that heretofore was slow to assemble or difficult to communicate: to enhance our planning capacity so as to improve our management and control of resources with a goal in improved contract and program performance.

**SETTING:** The HIV epidemic in New York City (NYC) is the most widespread, complex and longstanding in the United States. It is, in reality, a composite of several epidemics driven by different patterns of risk behavior in a city that is, in turn, a composite of many communities that are diversely distributed across I80 zip codes each of which could be the equivalent of a small city.

**PROJECT:** To refine our methods and analysis of service distribution by introducing geographic factors: To develop a geographically sensitive database of all contracts and directly operated programs: To identify and develop ancillary co-factors of population and need –surveillance, racial and ethnic, poverty, immigration, and hospital data, and to integrate all elements through the use of a Geographic information System (GIS) into what today is known as the Resource Allocation Database (RAD).

**RESULTS:** Creation of the RAD, a system which re-examined our contracts and programs by Point of Senior (POS) and Program Outreach Areas (POA) as well as by intervention and population characteristics: Integration of co-factor information through the use of the new technologies of the GIS and RAD: Rapid analysis and mapping of populations, needs and resources, and visualization and comprehensive analysis of gaps in service and association of complex factors.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** The development of the RAD demonstrated the value and importance of keeping pace with new technology. The system had significant positive impact on our ability to communicate through visual images that greatly enhanced our planning process and the participation of our community planning partners and stakeholders.

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